BULLETIN
OF THE WORLD COUNCIL
OF PEACE

Möllwaldplatz 5
VIENNA IV, AUSTRIA
Tel. 65 42 04

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Dear Friends,

Disarmament, the trial of peace workers in the German Federal Republic, and the war in Algeria are the themes of this letter. Of course the next issue of the Bulletin of the WCP will give much more detailed information on these problems.

D I S A R M A M E N T

Hungary A 5-man delegation from the Postal Workers' Union recently visited the offices of the Hungarian Peace Council and handed over for presentation to the World Council of Peace two magnificent albums containing the signatures of 25,249 postal workers who want peace.

The Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, at a recent meeting, discussed the appeal of the USSR Supreme Soviet to the Parliaments of all countries. The Committee decided to give its full support to the proposals contained in the Appeal, which is also supported by the Presidium of the Hungarian branch of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Bulgaria The National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has issued a statement which, expressing the sentiments and desires of the Bulgarian people, wholeheartedly welcomed and gives full support to the Appeal of the USSR Supreme Soviet to the Parliaments of all countries. The National Assembly says it will do everything in its power to achieve total, all-round disarmament.

Japan A Tokyo meeting on 10 November organised by the Japan Council against A and H Bombs, at which 1,000 people were present, passed a resolution calling on the Japanese Government to give up its plan to revise the US-Japan Security Treaty and its nuclear armaments project. A second resolution demands that the American Government put an immediate stop to the Nike Hercules rocket manoeuvres now going on in Okinawa.

Mr. Yasui, Director General of the Japan Council, said that 100 resolutions have been adopted at provincial or local meetings calling for the denuclearisation of Japan.

Mr. Yoshitaro Hirano, President of the Japan Peace Committee, was warmly applauded at a meeting when he said that those who were opposing the trend of the times were doomed to failure.

/ Indonesia / The University of Djakarta Students' Week began on 13 November when the President of the Djakarta Students' Peace Committee declared that Indonesian students must work together with the students of other countries for peace, against a new war and for friendship between the nations.

/ France / Mr. Hubert Garrigue of the Puy-de-Dôme Observatory, speaking at a conference of the French Meteorological Society, revealed that the dust found on cars was radioactive and that Sahara sand is frequently found in rainfall analysis.

/ Poland / The Committee of Foreign Students studying in Polish institutes of higher education sent a letter to the French Ambassador in Poland protesting against the Sahara tests.

/ Italy / The French plan to carry out nuclear tests in the Sahara is causing widespread indignation in Italy among all sections of the people. Hundreds of statements have been made and demonstrations and manifold activities are going on to protest against the tests. In fact protests have been so strong that the Government was forced to send a special delegation to the French Government in an attempt to calm down public opinion.

/ Czechoslovakia / From 11 to 14 November the International Students' Peace Conference was held in Prague, with 130 delegates from students organisations of 48 countries. The main theme of the discussion was total, all-round disarmament, and an appeal and resolutions were adopted on the international political situation and the struggle of students for peace.

/ Australia / The Australian and New Zealand Congress for Disarmament and International Cooperation ended in a burst of enthusiasm on 14 November. Thousands of people took part in the various meetings and demonstrations and delegates unanimously adopted a Charter of Hope for the Australian Nation.

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC TRIAL

The trial of 7 members of the West German Peace Committee now going on in the 4th Chamber of the Düsseldorf Court, has aroused a wave of indignation and protests in a whole number of countries.

Delegations have been sent from Hesse, Hamburg, Bremen, the German Democratic Republic, and from Düsseldorf itself, as well as journalists from both parts of Germany, Iraq, India, France, Great Britain and Austria. At the beginning of the hearing the charge against Mrs. Hoereth-Menge, who is 71 years old and very seriously ill, was temporarily suspended because the Court doctor declined any responsibility for the results the hearing could have on the accused's health. Mrs. Hoereth-Menge, however, expressed the desire to take part at her own risk.

Well-known British barrister, Mr. D.N. Pritt, Q.C., who has taken on the defence, said that it was a particular honour for him to act as defence counsel at this trial at which the aims of the World Council of Peace are being judged.

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/German Federal Republic/ "Stop the trial" is the unanimous demand of protest letters sent to the Tribunal by the Hesse Peace Committee. They include letters from 35 people in Dörringheim, 103 in Mörfelden and 71 in Gross Auheim while 72 citizens of Offenbach also protested to the Court.

/German Democratic Republic/ The opening of the trial caused great indignation among German and foreign participants at the Schiller commemoration in Weimar, and Dr. Gyorgy Vajda, eminent Hungarian expert on the great German writer, made a protest declaration.

Professor Walter Friedrich, President of the German Peace Council, remarked that the Bonn Government is threatening to jail citizens who work for peace and mutual understanding.

Political parties, lawyers' associations and representatives of all sections of the people of the German Democratic Republic have demanded an immediate stay of proceedings in this undemocratic trial. The Antifascist Resistance Fighters' Committee has also made a protest and participants at the 19th plenary session of the German Peace Council and the Committee for Human Rights sent protest letters to the UN Secretary-General. The meeting also made an appeal to all Germans on this subject and well-known professors of international law have sent an open letter to the Düsseldorf Court.

/Poland/ The Polish Peace Committee, the Central Council of Polish Trade Unions, the Council and Union of Cooperatives, the Geological Institute, the Warsaw Committee of the National Front and many other organisations have sent protest letters to the Court. Mr. Mieczyslaw Kurzyna, member of the Presidential Committee of the Polish Peace Council, has also protested against the trial.

/Denmark/ Mr. Sven Petersen, barrister of the Danish Supreme Court and executive member of the Danish Seaman's Union, has also protested.

/Finland/ The Finnish Peace Committee has sent a letter to the German Federal Government, while the daily Kansan Uutiset published an article on the courageous stand for peace taken by the accused during the preliminary hearings.

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/ Sweden / The Swedish Peace Committee and the Swedish Democratic Women's Association have sent a joint letter to the German Federal Republic authorities.

/ France / Combat pour la Paix, the French Peace Movement's monthly, devotes a page of its last issue to the trial; other democratic newspapers have also published articles on this subject.

/ Albania / "We make a strong protest against the measures taken by the legal authorities of the Federal Government and demand a stay of proceedings", says a joint statement of the Albanian Peace Committee and the Albanian Lawyers' Association.

/ People's Republic of China / "In the name of all the Chinese people", said a leader of the Chinese Peace Committee to an ADN Press Agency Reporter, "we protest against the proceedings taken against peace workers in Western Germany."

A L G E R I A

/ France / The Peace Movement's campaign for an immediate end to the war in Algeria is having growing success throughout the country. Tens of thousands of postcards, signed by people in the towns, villages and factories and by many intellectuals, are arriving at the office of the President of the Republic expressing the desire of the people for negotiations.

Signatories of these postcards include a number of municipal councillors, socialist, communist, republican and non-party Mayors and Deputy Mayors. A majority of the people asked signed without hesitation. In many places the postcards are being collected by Peace Committees and will be taken by deputations to General de Gaulle.

A combined meeting for peace in Algeria had an audience of 600 people in Besancon. Dean Albert Chatelet, member of the World Council of Peace, referred to the torture going on in Algeria and in conclusion said that the French people could succeed in bringing about a negotiated solution of the Algerian problem. An appeal for continued action was launched and a motion was sent to the local Prefecture.

The Peace Movement organised two other important meetings. The first was in Lyon, convened by 23 organisations and political parties in a joint appeal and the second in Nancy, the theme being "Is peace possible in Algeria?" Laurent Casanova, member of the Presidential Committee of the WCP, was the main speaker at the latter meeting. Other meetings are also planned for Marseille, Limoges, Grenoble, etc.

The Presidential Committee of the French Peace Movement has decided to commemorate 19 December as a day of struggle for peace in Algeria. In a statement it calls on peace committees throughout France to send deputations to their Prefects on this day and to hand over memoranda on the actions taken for a negotiated solution of the Algerian problem.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

/ Hungary / At an impressive ceremony, Mr. Arpad Szakasits, member of the WCP, awarded WCP medals and diplomas to a number of active Hungarian peace workers.

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With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,
Editor Bulletin of the World Council of Peace.